

Pony Express Stables  
(Pike's Peak Stables)  
914 Penn Street  
St. Joseph  
Buchanan County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1851

HABS  
Mo,  
11-SASOE,  
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PONY EXPRESS STABLES  
(Pike's Peak Stables)

HABS No. MO-1851

Location: 914 Penn Street, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Significance: The original building on this site was the starting point for the Pony Express, which carried mail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California between April, 1860, and October, 1861.

Description: Coursed brick comprises the exterior walls (north, east, west). The south wall is made of two-by-four framing covered with asbestos sheeting. Ornamental brickwork on the north front is the only adornment on the structure.

History: Benjamin Holladay built the original frame structure in 1858. It measured 60 by 125 feet. Due to deterioration, brick walls were built inside the wooden frame ones in 1888. The frame walls were later removed, decreasing the width of the building to 58 feet.

When originally constructed, horse stalls divided up the space on the ground floor. A hayloft ran the width and length of the building.

In 1950, Karl Goetz, president of the Goetz Pony Express Foundation, renovated the building to its putative 1888 appearance. At present the interior houses a historical museum with display areas, a reconstructed wheelwright's shop, and blacksmith shop.

Source: National Register nomination form, "Pony Express Stables," compiled by Charla A. Piggott, January 27, 1970.

Historian: Robert Buerglener, HABS, July 6, 1988

ADDENDUM TO  
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Saint Joseph  
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National Park Service  
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